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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 10 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States and British aircraft based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey continued between 15 and 28 February 1999 and that the aircraft in question engaged in acts of aggression, reconnaissance activities and acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with the United States, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the facilities for these acts of aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The logistic support that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait provide to the United States and British forces makes them key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they share international responsibility for the consequences of these actions. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on its people by these same actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations by United States and British aircraft and damage caused, 15-28 February 1999

1. In the northern region 126 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres over the following cities and towns: Irbil, Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Ayn Zalah, Zakho, Rawanduz, Baibo and Sinjar.

2. In the southern region 507 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Basrah, Diwaniyah, Najaf, Karbala', Amarah, Kut, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Rifa'i, Mu'aniyah, Umm Qasr, Safwan, Qal'at Salih, Lasaf, Qal'at Sukkar, Ali al-Gharbi, Hawr al-Hammar, Madinah, Ansab, Nukhayb, Afak, Suq al-Shuyukh, Chabaish, Najaf South, Hayy, Hashimiyah, Shatrah, Shu'aybah, Faw, Maymunah, Badrah, Darraji, Dirhamiyah, Hillah, Suwayrah, Aziziyah and Jabal Sanam.

3. At 0930, 0950, 1000, 1010, 1020, 1145 and 1150 hours on 15 February 1999 United States and British aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the Umm Qasr and Faw areas.

4. At 1001, 1055, 1108, 1308 and 1316 hours on 16 February 1999 United States and British aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the Basrah and Umm Qasr areas.

5. At 1010, 1045, 1100 and 1110 hours on 19 February 1999 United States and British aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the Umm Qasr and Faw areas.

6. At 1045 hours on 19 February 1999 United States and British aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the northern region and fired two projectiles at a civilian locality. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

7. At 1000 hours on 19 February 1999 12 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace. They included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s and were supported by an AWACS early-warning aircraft from inside Saudi airspace. These formations carried out 37 sorties from Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti airspace, and they overflew areas in the governorates of Basrah, Dhi Qar and Muthanna. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

8. At 1102 hours on 19 February 1999 11 aggressor formations coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. These formations included F-14s and F-15s as well as British Tornados and were supported by an AWACS early-warning aircraft. They carried out 22 sorties in the Dohuk, Irbil and Ninawa areas and fired two missiles at a civilian locality in the Mosul district. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1230 hours, drove them off and forced them to return to their bases in Turkey.

9. At 1025 hours on 21 February 1999 United States and British aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in Muthanna Governorate in the southern region. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

10. At 1642 hours on 21 February 1999 aggressor aircraft bombarded a civilian locality in the Nasiriyah area, firing eight projectiles. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

11. At 0945 hours on 21 February 1999 15 United States and British formations coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They included F-14s, F-15s and F/A-18s and were supported by two early-warning aircraft, one AWACS and one E-2C, from inside Saudi airspace. These formations carried out 24 sorties from Kuwaiti airspace and 18 from Saudi airspace, and they overflew areas in Basrah, Maysan, Muthanna and Dhi Qar governorates. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1110 hours, drove them off. At 1605 hours on the same day another five formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace. They included F-14s and F-16s and were supported by two early-warning aircraft, one AWACS and one E-2C, from inside Saudi airspace. They carried out 16 sorties from Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti airspace. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1715 hours, drove them off.

12. At 1140 hours on 22 February 1999 United States and British aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the Samawah, Nasiriyah and Basrah areas of the southern region and bombarded a number of localities in the Darraji and Dirhamiyah area. At 1740 hours the aggressor aircraft fired three projectiles at a civilian locality in Ghammas, and a number of residents were killed and wounded in the bombardment. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

13. At 1036 hours on 22 February 1999 United States and British aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region and fired 25 projectiles at a number of civilian localities in the Mosul area. A number of residents were killed and wounded in the bombardment. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

14. At 1035 hours on 22 February 1999 10 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. These formations included F-14s, F-15s and F/A-18s and were supported by two early-warning aircraft, one AWACS and one E-2C. They carried out 12 sorties from Kuwaiti airspace and 20 from Saudi airspace, and they overflew areas in Dhi Qar, Basrah, Maysan and Muthanna governorates. They bombarded a number of civilian installations in the southern region, and several residents were killed and wounded in the bombardment. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off. At 1203 hours the aircraft returned to the bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait from which they had taken off. At 1635 hours on the same day 12 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace. They included F-14s, F-15s, F-16s and F/A-18s. They carried out 16 sorties from Kuwaiti airspace and eight from Saudi airspace, were supported by

two early-warning aircraft, one AWACS and one E-2C, and overflew areas in Basrah, Dhi Qar, Maysan and Muthanna governorates. These formations bombarded a number of civilian localities, and several residents were killed and wounded in the bombardment. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1800 hours, drove them off.

15. At 1036 hours on 22 February 1999 10 formations of United States and British aircraft (F-14s, F-15s and F-16s), coming from Turkish territory, penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They were supported by an AWACS early-warning aircraft, overflew areas in Ninawa and Dohuk governorates and carried out 20 sorties. They bombarded a number of civilian localities, and several residents were wounded in the bombardment. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

16. At 1230 hours on 23 February 1999 12 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They were supported by an AWACS early-warning aircraft from inside Turkish airspace, and they included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s as well as British Tornados. They overflew areas in Ninawa, Dohuk and Irbil governorates and bombarded a number of civilian localities in Ninawa Governorate. Several residents were wounded in the bombardment. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1540 hours, drove them off.

17. At 1210 hours on 23 February 1999 United States and British aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region and fired two missiles at a civilian locality in the Mosul area. At 1330 hours on the same day aggressor aircraft fired five projectiles at civilian localities in the Mosul area, and several residents were killed and wounded in the bombardment. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

18. At 1215 hours on 24 February 1999 United States and British aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in Dhi Qar Governorate in the southern region and fired three projectiles at a civilian locality in the Nasiriyah area. Several residents were killed and wounded in the bombardment.

19. At 1840 hours on 24 February 1999 United States and British aircraft penetrated Iraq's airspace in the Iskandariyah area and dropped cluster bombs on civilian localities. Several residents were killed and wounded in the bombardment. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

20. At 1815 hours on 24 February 1999 22 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait penetrated Iraq's airspace. They included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s and were supported by two early-warning aircraft, one AWACS and one E-2C, from inside Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace. They carried out sorties in the Baghdad area, 12 from Kuwaiti airspace and 36 from Saudi airspace. They bombarded a civilian locality, and several residents were killed and wounded in the bombardment. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1920 hours, drove them off.

21. At 0815 hours on 27 February 1999 11 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's

airspace. These formations included F-14s, F-15s and F/A-18s, and they were supported by two early-warning aircraft, one AWACS and one E-2C, from inside Saudi airspace. They carried out 24 sorties from Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti airspace and bombarded civilian installations in Basrah, Dhi Qar, Maysan, Najaf and Muthanna governorates. Twenty-three civilian residents were wounded in the bombardment. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0938 hours, drove them off.

22. At 1445 hours on 28 February 1999, repeater station 6 (RS-6), a key link in the system that controls the operation of the Iraq-Turkey oil pipeline located 40 kilometres south-west of Mosul in an area where there are no other installations for several kilometres round about, came under direct and savage attack by United States aircraft coming from Turkey. There was large-scale damage to station installations, one of the station operators was killed and three were injured, and the flow of crude oil through the Iraq-Turkey pipeline was halted.

23. At 1300 hours on 28 February 1999 11 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace. These formations included F-14s and F-15s, and they were supported by an AWACS early-warning aircraft inside Turkish airspace. They carried out 21 sorties, overflew areas in Ninawa, Dohuk and Irbil governorates and bombarded a number of farming villages in Ninawa Governorate. A number of innocent citizens were killed in the bombardment, including a three-year-old infant, Muhsin Dhiyab Ibrahim, in the Rabi'ah area and a herdsman from Tayniyah village in Ninawa Governorate, and several residents were injured. The aggressor aircraft also bombarded a number of civilian installations and farming villages in Ninawa Governorate. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1642 hours, drove them off.